

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 9th May 1903.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukadadas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 27th April

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL
MATEEN,
April 27th, 1903.

The arrest of Colonel Yate by the Afghans.

says that the arrest of Colonel Yate by the Afghans created a sensation in English political circles. Some say that Russia must have had a

hand in the affair. But we do not know what the real facts are. We see that the Afghans are the only people in Asia who can boast of not having been cheated by any European diplomat and of having fattened themselves at the cost of their neighbours. It is said that the Amir is coming to India on a visit to the Viceroy, perhaps to solicit some concession or other.

2. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd May asks why there was so much delay in releasing Colonel Yate from captivity. Cabul is only 90 miles from Peshawar, and

BANGAVASI,
May 2nd, 1903.

The Afghan attitude.

a horse-dák can travel that distance in three days, and a quick horse-dák even in 36 hours. The Amir is said to have been out a-hunting, when Colonel Yate was imprisoned. But he could have gone at most 15 miles from his capital. In these circumstances, the Amir's reply ought to have come in a week's time, but, as a matter of fact, the reply did not come till three weeks were over. How was it, again, that an English officer and an English lady were fired upon by Afghan soldiers, even when walking within the limits of Quetta?

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 28th April complains of the great prevalence of gambling in Mymensingh town as well as in the mufassal. The gambling dens are

Gambling in Mymensingh.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 28th, 1903.

found constantly crowded with men and such is the infatuation that even school-boys and educated people have taken to gambling. Many are found to leave these dens with tearful eyes after having lost their all there. People so robbed of their money will no doubt take to thieving to make good their loss. One hears of serious affrays in the mufassal in connection with gambling. Nor are quarrels altogether absent from scenes of gambling in the town itself. The writer again draws the attention of the authorities to the matter.

4. A correspondent of the same paper says that thanks to the Badla

CHARU MIHIR.

The Badla outpost in the Mymensingh district.

outpost land-robberies are almost unknown in those parts. But river-dacoities are very frequent in this eastern part of Mymensingh, and particularly

on the Barak river which lies between the Sylhet and Mymensingh districts. The Badla outpost is 20 miles from the river, and by the time that the report of a robbery on the river reaches the outpost, the offenders make themselves scarce. Under these circumstances, there should be an outpost on the banks of the river on the Mymensingh side just as there is one at Ajmiriganj on the Sylhet side. Again, the Barak outpost being but an outpost, its police officers are unable to exercise full powers. The outpost should, therefore, be raised to the status of a police-station. This will entail no additional expenditure, for the existing staff is quite adequate. The attention of the District Magistrate and the able native District Superintendent of Police is drawn to this matter.

5. In continuation of its previous articles on the chaukidari-tax, the

The chaukidari-tax.

Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika [Calcutta] of the 29th April writes as follows:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 29th, 1903.

Let us now see to what purposes the proceeds of the chaukidari-tax ought to be devoted if Government does not consent to its abolition. At present the chaukidar is a part and parcel of the police; the chaukidari-tax is consequently no better than a police-tax. Before 1882 people living within municipalities had to pay a police-tax. But in his letter No. 3513, dated the 10th October 1882, Lord Ripon, the then Viceroy, wrote to the Bengal Government to the effect that municipal rate-payers should no longer pay the police-tax, but that the moneys which were being paid by them as such should

thenceforth be spent for the benefit of the municipalities, on such works as the founding of charitable dispensaries, hospitals, &c. On the 20th February 1882, the Bengal Government passed a resolution in which this desire of the Government of India was given effect to. Since that time people residing within municipal limits have been exempted from the payment of the police-tax.

Now, if Government is determined not to abolish the chaukidari-tax levied on villagers, why should not the proceeds of the chaukidari-tax be devoted to the purpose of supplying their wants to—the establishment, for instance, of charitable dispensaries, the construction of works calculated to remove water scarcity, &c.? When villagers and people residing in municipal areas are the subjects of one and the same sovereign, why should they be treated differently?

Our first prayer to the Government is the abolition of the chaukidari-tax, but if Government will not abolish it, we beg it to devote its proceeds to the supply of the wants of villagers, just as the proceeds of the police-tax are devoted by it to the supply of the wants of those who reside within the limits of municipalities.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 29th, 1903.

6. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 29th April says that a tiger is committing depredations at Lalgola. It is killing horses, cows and goats. The other day Lakshi Kant Roy, an inhabitant of village Paharhpur, was taking a walk in his orchard when he was attacked by it and severely mauled. Recently, a boy of eight years was carried off one night.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
April 29th, 1903.

7. A correspondent writes to the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 29th April from Contai:—A cadastral survey has been going on in Jalamuta, Majnamuta and other parganas in the Midnapore district, and in this connection the survey peons have been compelling the carters of the place to carry stones on insufficient remuneration. This impressment of labour ought to be put down by order of the higher authorities.

SANJIVANI,
April 30th, 1903.

8. In continuation of its previous articles on the subject, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 30th April publishes the following complaints about the oppressiveness of the chaukidari-tax:—

(1) *Khorsedpur, subdivision Kushtia, district Nadia.*—The number of residents in the village is 325, most of whom earn their livelihood by serving as day-labourers. The number of chaukidars in the village is four, besides a dafadar and a collecting panchayet. The oppression committed on the villagers in the realization of the tax cannot be imagined by one who has not seen it with his own eyes. The chaukidar's duty consists solely in attending the police-station four days in a month. By day they look after their private business, and by night are never found outside their houses. The collecting panchayet of Jorarpur is a *Kalu* and he commits the greatest oppression on the residents of the village.

(2) *Navagram, subdivision Manikganj, district Dacca.*—The appointment of dafadars has added very seriously to the irksome burden which the villagers had already to bear in maintaining chaukidars and collecting panchayets. The chaukidars absolutely do nothing. Neither a chaukidar nor a dafadar is ever found to go his nightly rounds. Chaukidars and dafadars should be paid by Government if it wishes to maintain the posts; otherwise the posts should be abolished. Great injustice is done by the panchayets in the assessment of the tax.

(3) *Kundarpur, district Faridpur.*—Chaukidars and dafadars do more harm than good to the villagers by their services. They are never found to perform their duty of watch and ward. As for the chaukidari-tax, it was doubled in 20 years and now, after the creation of the posts of dafadars, it has again been very largely enhanced. The collecting panchayets commit great partiality and injustice in assessing the tax. Sometimes, again, more is realised from the illiterate people than the amount of the assessed tax, but no receipt is granted for the excess realization. Sometimes no receipts at all

are granted for the tax paid. The following list shows the assessed tax of a few residents as it was 20 years ago and as it is now:—

NAME.			Tax 20 years ago.	Present tax.
			As.	Rs. A.
Shaikh Hujjat Ali	...	...	12	1 2
" Jiyan	...	...	12	0 15
" Madan	...	...	12	...
" Lal Mahmud	...	...	6	1 8
Madan Mohan Basu	...	...	...	0 9
Shaikh Faijuddi	...	...	12	1 5
" Janu	...	...	12	1 5
Chandra Kumar Guha	...	...	12	3 0
Sarat Chandra Guha	...	...	8	2 8
Mahisaddi Sardar	...	...	6	1 11
Phagavan Chandra De	...	...	9	1 2
Iswar Chandra De	...	...	9	1 8
Guru Charan Yugi	...	...	...	0 12

The truth is that the greatest injustice and oppression is committed on the villagers, whose pecuniary circumstances are daily growing worse, in the assessment and realization of the tax, and representations to the Magistrate on the subject produce no result.

9. The same paper finds it difficult to believe the report that an experienced officer like Mr. Stevenson-Moore, Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, is refusing licenses for the possession of fire-arms to people who have taken from the Government leases in the Sunder-

An order under the Arms Act by the Magistrate of the 24-Parganas.

bans and that he has even ordered those to whom licenses were already granted to deposit their fire-arms with the police on pain of prosecution. Infested as the Sunderbans are by tigers and other wild animals, it will be impossible for the lessees to clear their lands and bring them under cultivation unless they are allowed the possession and use of fire-arms. The Sunderbans being the Government's khas mahal property, any difficulty which is thrown in the way of bringing it under cultivation will ultimately harm the Government itself.

SANJIVANI,
April 30th, 1903.

10. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st May says:—Although the chaukidari-tax in the Bankura district has been enhanced since the appointment of *dafadars*, the villagers have not benefited in the least by the arrangement. No *dafadars* are seen to go out on watch in the villages along with the chaukidars; and the other day the villagers of Barhkala, Machhrakhi, etc., made a complaint to that effect before the Police Sub-Inspector. Will the popular District Magistrate, Mr. Gupta, make an inquiry and write to Government to do away with the *dafadars*, who are not at all required, and thus try to lighten a little the burden of the poor villagers?

The *dafadars* in the Bankura district.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 1st, 1903.

11. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st May says that on the evening of the 16th April last the Sub-Inspector of the Kharhdaha thana in the 24-Parganas district arrested a man named Kapil and kept him confined in the thana for no ostensible reason. Kapil's young sister also was brought to the thana by a constable. They were released on bail on the next morning.

The Sub-Inspector of the Kharhdaha thana in the 24-Parganas district.

HITAVADI
May 1st, 1903.

12. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 3rd May says:—Last Thursday Babu Bharat Chandra Mukhopadhyaya, a teacher of the Dacca Jubilee School, and Babu Kalada Kumar Gangopadhyaya took a boat from Dacca for going home. They encountered a storm on the way; and thus being unable to cross the river, had to stop at the Baktabali *chur*. While there, they were robbed of property to the value of Rs. 80 or Rs. 90, including some cash. The attention of the authorities has been repeatedly drawn to the depredations of a band of river dacoits frequenting this *chur*; but to no effect. It is time the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police moved in the matter.

Another theft at the Baktabali *chur* in the Dacca district.

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 3rd, 1903.

NIHAR,
May 5th, 1903.

13. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 5th May says that some time ago the *ijardar* of the pound in the Faridpur village within the Contai subdivision of the Midnapore district was fined Rs. 10 for not properly feeding cattle under him. But this punishment has not been able to correct him. Cattle confined in the pound are still as little cared for as before. What do the Pound Inspectors do? As a matter of fact, it is impossible for two Pound Inspectors to inspect all the pounds in the district.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

KHULNA,
April 23rd, 1903.

14. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 23rd April says that Babu Tara Prasanna Acharyya, Senior Deputy Magistrate of Khulna, often uses harsh and insulting language towards parties, muktears and all others appearing in his Court. He often threatens them with fine and imprisonment for contempt of Court. Nobody is permitted to talk in the Court-room; and muktears, having occasion to speak to their clients, have to go out for the purpose. The Court-room is very much like a class-room in a school; and the Deputy Magistrate often strikes the table, as if to maintain order and discipline.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 28th, 1903.

15. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 28th April says that a litigant, coming from the mufassal to Mymensingh, is sure to be pounced upon by a tout at one or other of the several approaches to the town, such as Muktagacha road, Mymensingh station, Shambhuganj, Gudaraghat, etc. Everybody knows the great mischief that is often committed by these wily touts upon the artless and unsuspecting arrivals from the mufassal; yet, while an attempt is being made now to put down these dishonest men, the Mymensingh Bar seems perfectly indifferent in the matter. Some years ago, a list of touts was prepared at the instance of the local Bar for submission to the District Judge; but the list has not yet been forwarded to him. This is not creditable to the members of the Bar whose attention should be directed to another point. There are some men in Mymensingh who give themselves out in the town as muharrirs of pleaders and as muktears before litigants hailing from the mufassal. But these men are not in the employ of any pleader as permanent muharrirs. Their business is to secure from a litigant the papers on which he relies for the institution and conduct of his suit, take from him money as costs, and then employ any pleader or muktear at a rate lower than that usually charged, appropriating to themselves the balance of the money. These men ought to be put down for the benefit of all—the parties, pleaders and muktears.

BIKAS,
April 28th, 1903.

16. A correspondent of the *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 28th April says that Babu Syama Kanta Nag, First Munsif of Chikandi in the Backergunge district, comes to Court at noon or 1 P.M., goes home for tiffin at 3 P.M., comes back to Court at 5 or 6 P.M., and continues his work till 8 or 9 P.M. The Second Munsif, Babu Amrita Lal Mukherji, attends Court at 10 A.M., and strikes off cases and rejects applications if the parties are not in attendance at that early hour. This irregularity in attendance causes great inconvenience and hardship to the parties, &c. Babu Amrita Lal also treats his office very badly. Lately, he instituted proceedings for contempt of Court against some school-boys for making noise outside the Court premises.

PRATJNA,
April 29th, 1903.

17. The *Pratjna* [Calcutta] of the 29th April has the following:—
A partial order of Mr. Macleod. Any distinction of creed and colour by the officials is painfully felt by the less favoured party. But we have found a recent instance of official partiality towards Musalmans.

Both the *Sriramnavami* festival of the Hindus and the *Muharram* festival of the Musalmans are celebrated with great pomp in Krisnagore. Both the festivals fell at the same time this year. In order to prevent a quarrel the Hindus, therefore, made a prayer to Mr. Macleod to make suitable arrangements. Upon this Mr. Macleod passed the order that the Hindus should not make any music on the day of the *Muharram*. Not content with passing this written order, Mr. Macleod called the Hindu clerk in his camp and told him "You

must inform every Hindu you meet of this order of mine. I have something else to tell you. You must tell the Hindus that I do not fear the High Court or anybody else. And you must tell your Madhav Swami (a *sannyasi*) that he must not remain at Kajeppa on the day of the *Muharram* without my special license. You must impress him with a due sense of my authority."

The feelings of the Hindus at such an order may be easily imagined. Madhav Swami thought discretion the better part of valour and left the place. When the Hindus have to suffer such injustice even under a ruler like Lord Curzon, there is no knowing what they will have to suffer when he is away. To the Hindus also we have to say this, that they should give up religious celebration accompanied with music, and take to the woods like their religious-minded forefathers, where they will receive kinder treatment from beasts than they have done from men.

18. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 29th April says that recently Mr. Parrott, the Sub-divisional Officer of Jajpur, in the Cuttack district, behaved most unjustly and discourteously towards the parties and pleaders in a riot case. He stopped the cross-examination of a witness, ordered the pleader for the prosecution to get out of the Court-room, and tore to pieces a petition which the accused persons had submitted for permission to move the High Court in the case.

19. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April has the following in the English columns:—

The High Court's decision in the Darjeeling soldier's case.

We do not think that Justices Brett and Harington of the Calcutta High Court are quite right in their view that drunkenness goes to extenuate the enormity of a crime. If a man chooses to drink himself to a state of insensibility and then goes about breaking every enactment of the Penal Code he ought to be held responsible for the crimes perpetrated by him. The British soldier who attempted an outrage on a Bhutia lady at Darjeeling might have been drunk as a beetle and half seas over at the time of the offence, but that does not tend to make the offence any the lesser. If that had been so, Government could hardly have troubled to appeal to the High Court against the insufficiency of the punishment inflicted upon him by the lower Court—namely, a fine of Rs. 25. But the Hon'ble Judges thought that because the man was in a state of intoxication the fine inflicted upon him fully answered the ends of justice. What was thus an aggravation was allowed to plead in extenuation of the crime. We are not surprised to find that serious objection is taken to the judgment by our vernacular contemporaries.

20. Referring to the High Court's decision in the Darjeeling soldier's case, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 30th April asks if the High Court would have been satisfied with a light punishment like the one inflicted in this case, had the complainant been a European woman and the accused a native.

In such a case, would not the European and Eurasian communities have moved heaven and earth to get the accused heavily punished, and would not such agitation have disturbed the equanimity of the officials and of the Hon'ble Judges themselves? Indeed, the native public expected a very different result of the Darjeeling case in the High Court.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st May says that under the existing arrangements road-cess appeals preferred by Raniganj coal mine-owners are heard by the District Magistrate of Burdwan. This causes great loss and inconvenience to the appellants. The Subdivisional Magistrate of Raniganj should therefore be empowered to hear such appeals, the more so as he may be presumed to possess more local knowledge than the District Officer.

22. The same paper says that the sarishtadar of the Alipore Judge's Court is a canvasser for two Life Insurance Companies. He is also a dealer in patent medicines. His oppressions in connection with these matters are borne in silence by people who fear to displease him. In making appointments he always looks to his own interests. Through his exertions sale notifications began to be published in an obscure newspaper, the *Mishtabhashi*. A Munsif

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
April 29th, 1903.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
April 30th, 1903.

SANJIVANI,
April 30th, 1903.

HITAVADI,
May 1st, 1903.

HITAVADI,

prohibited a sale in execution of a decree in favour of Babus Rajkumar Sarkar and others of Chetla for the sole offence that it had not been notified in the *Mishtabhashi*. The matter was brought to the notice of the District Judge, and thus an end was put to that newspaper's monopoly. The *Mishtabhashi* gave vent to its anger by abusing the local pleaders, who, thereupon, convened a meeting in the local Bar Library and passed resolutions against the sarishtadar. The *Mishtabhashi*, although it is published in the name of a man who was no better than a pauper the other day, is really the sarishtadar's paper. The sarishtadar should be transferred from Alipore and the authorities should fix the period for which a sarishtadar may serve in the Alipore Judge's Court.

RANGALAYA
May 3rd, 1903.

23. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd May writes as follows *anent* the Sangramgarh murder case:—

The Sangramgarh murder case.

The story on the side of the prosecution was such as neither the Judge nor the jury could believe, and which, we are told, was stated by the Government Pleader himself to be an incredible story. The version of the story given by Mr. Martin was that he had been beaten by a large number of natives; that in order to defend himself he held his revolver in his hand, that the gun went off, he knows not how; and struck he knows not whom. This version, too, may not appear credible. But there is no evidence, for all that, that Mr. Martin was the murderer.

The depositions in this case lead us to suspect that the witnesses on the side of the prosecution did not speak the whole truth, but kept back much that they knew. Would it have been right to have punished Mr. Martin on such doubtful evidence? Should we have made such a clamour over the matter if Mr. Martin had not been a European?

From a perusal of the papers of the case we are of opinion that if anybody is to blame more than another in this case, it is the police. It was the police that conducted the investigation, that got up the case and conducted the prosecution. Why was then such an absurd story invented? We believe that the police came to know the real truth. A revolver will not go off of itself. Something must have happened. What that something was neither the Judge nor we could know. That something remains hidden through the fault of the police. We cannot blame the Judge for the failure of justice in this case, and cannot approve of the judgment of those who are making strong remarks in the press in that connection. We, however, pray Government to have a fresh investigation held by other police officers, and to make every effort to get at the truth. If a new trial be then held in a British law-court, we are sure that justice will be done.

(d)—Education.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 28th, 1903.

24. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 28th April notices with satisfaction the confirmation of Babu Kali Charan Banerji in the office of Registrar of the Calcutta University. In this instance merit has been rewarded.

Babu Kali Charan Banerji confirmed as Registrar of the Calcutta University.

SANJIVANI,
April 30th, 1903.

25. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 30th April says that everybody will be glad at the re-appointment of a good and experienced man like Babu Kali Charan Banerji to the Registrarship of the Calcutta University.

Babu Kali Charan Banerji's re-appointment to the Registrarship of the Calcutta University.

SAMAY,
May 1st, 1903.

26. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 1st May says that in March last, Mr. Bamford, the Inspector of European Schools, held an examination of teachers in English pronunciation and idiom for the first time. There were 69 examinees present. The examination of the first man took 15 minutes, but after that not more than three or four minutes' time was devoted to the examination of any one. Again, those examinees who had appeared from schools in Calcutta were asked to go away without any examination. But all were passed. What was all this? Was it not a farce? Whatever that might be, the whim of an Anglo-Indian official was gratified, and that was worth something. Such whims become no country other than India.

The last examination of teachers in English pronunciation and idiom.

27. In criticising the educational policy of the Government of India the

Education in India.

Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 1st May says that nothing can be more shameful for the Government than that after a century and-a-half of British rule there should be no school in about 80 per cent. of Indian villages. Education, like military and railway affairs, should be administered directly by the Supreme Government and should not be allowed to suffer from the indifference of Provincial Administrations. No improvement can be expected so long as primary education remains in the hands of District Boards.

HITAVADI,
May 1st, 1903.

28. A respectable correspondent of the same paper prays the Govern-

A *tol* in Bhatpara.

ment to grant an aid to the Sanskrit *tol* which has been established in Bhatpara through the munificence of the late Subordinate Judge, Babu Barada Prasad Som of the village. Pundits Panchanan Tarkaratna, Kamalkrishna Kavyatirtha Smritibhusan and Kasipati Smritibhusan teach philosophy, rhetoric, and *smriti* respectively in it, but they do not take any fees from their students and have also to feed those of them who do not belong to the village. The working of the *tol* gave great satisfaction to the Director of Public Instruction when he visited it. Every year its students pass the Titleship Examination successfully. Government is therefore requested to secure its permanence by granting an aid to it.

HITAVADI.

29. The same paper says that thanks to the poverty of the local people

The Bareilly College.

and the sweet will of the head of the Education Department it has been settled that the Bareilly College will soon be abolished. The Director of Public Instruction has also ordered the Trustees of the College to apply the money, which they have in their hands on its behalf, to the construction of a hostel in connection with the Muir Central College. But what control he has on that money is not known. The Trustees applied to him for permission to keep the College for two years more, but to no effect. A memorial will soon be presented to the Government on the subject.

HITAVADI.

30. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 2nd May is happy to see Babu Kali

Babu Kali Charan Banerji confirmed as Registrar of the Calcutta University.

Charan Banerji confirmed in his appointment as Registrar of the Calcutta University. Although following a different religion, Babu Kali Charan has won the love of all by his courtesy and devotion to duty.

NAVA YUG,
May 2nd, 1903.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

31. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 28th April says that it is

Water scarcity in the mufassal.

impossible for the residents of Calcutta or other towns to realise the intolerable suffering which the mufassal people have to go through during this season of the year. The excessive heat has dried up almost all tanks, and the few that still contain a little water are used by men and cattle for all sorts of purposes, and serve to cause and spread cholera among those who use their impure water. Does it not behove the authorities to open their eyes and see all this? Is it not the solemn duty of the Government, which is, as it were, the father of its subjects to save their lives by excavating a tank in every village? Should the Government look on while its subjects die for want of good drinking water?

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
April 28th, 1903.

32. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 28th April says that seven-eighths of the

The cause of the unhealthiness of Barisal town.

deaths which every year take place in Barisal town are due to the filthy condition of the jail khal. The khal is used as a drain for emptying into all the filth of the jail premises and as a privy for the use of the boatmen who remain on the boats which come into the khal. The location of the burning ghat, the prisoners' burial-ground and the bazar latrine on its bank serve to increase its filthiness.

BIKAS,
April 28th, 1903.

It is within the power of the Municipality to remove the latrine and the burning ghat and disallow the entrance of boats into the river. And as for the other nuisances, the Chairman of the Municipality, if he had been a strong man, might have put sufficient pressure upon the jail authorities to divert their drains and remove the burial-ground. But the present Chairman is too weak

a man to do this. But the health of the town cannot be improved without improving the condition of the khal.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
April 29th, 1903.

33. The Calcutta Municipality has recently announced, says the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta]

The Plague Department of the Calcutta Municipality. of the 29th April, that there will be no abolition of its Plague Department as was previously given out. Everyone knows what special aptitude the Department possesses for preventing plague, which it is in the power of no mortal man to prevent. Will not Mr. Greer award medals to the officers of the Department for their signal services in connection with the prevention of plague?

PRATIJNA,
April 29th, 1903.

34. The *Pratijna* [Calcutta] of the 29th April says that the Calcutta Municipality is supremely indifferent to the health of the rate-payers. The health of a place is not

The Calcutta Municipality. preserved by the lighting of a number of gas-lamps or by the construction of broad roads through *bustees*. It is only by the purification of the atmosphere—by the supply of water, by the construction of drains, by the removal of foul smell, wherever needed—that the health of a place can be preserved. But these duties are performed very ill by the Municipality. Nor are the Commissioners more attentive to the health of the rate-payers. To take one instance out of many, a large excavation by the side of the Kalighat New Road has been filled up with street refuse, with the result that the health of the locality has greatly suffered, so that two or three deaths have taken place from cholera. Again, the residents of this place complained to the Municipality of want of water and received from the Municipality the following letter in reply:—

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ENGINEER, No. IV.

9, BELVEDERE ROAD, ALIPORE.

Dated 3rd March 1903.

BABU KHERODE PRASAD—

In reply to his letter, dated the 21st ultimo, addressed to supervisor, Babu B. N. Chatterjee, he is informed that an Estimate for the project has been prepared and no sooner sanction is received the work will be taken in hand.

A. C. CHAPMAN,

District Engineer, District No. 4.

It is nearly two months since the letter was received, but nothing has yet been done to remove the sufferings of the inhabitants of the locality.

SANJIVANI,
April 30th, 1903.

35. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 30th April has the following:—

The Calcutta Municipality under Mr. Greer's Chairmanship.

Never before did the Calcutta Municipality find itself in such a miserable condition or earn so bad a name as it has done under the Chairmanship of Mr. Greer. In the last budget of the Municipality, Mr. Greer had shown a surplus of about seven lakhs of rupees in the general fund on the 31st March 1903. Yet, a cheque issued by Mr. Greer about the middle of April on the Bank of Bengal was dishonoured for want of any balance in the Municipality's favour in the Bank. Could anything be more humiliating than this? This was probably the first occurrence of the nature in the whole history of the Calcutta Municipality. How was it that all the balance shown to exist on the 31st March and all the moneys collected from the rate-payers during the first few days of April disappeared, leaving the Municipal treasury empty by the middle of April? Why, again, was a cheque issued when there was no money in the Bank?

Formerly, the Accountant of the Municipality was a native. Mr. Greer appointed a European in his place, and directed the Vice-Chairman, by a written order, to sign cheques, without referring to the accounts, if the cheques were previously signed by the Accountant. The Vice-Chairman never before signed cheques without referring to the accounts, but since he detected mistakes in some bills, the Chairman ordered him to discontinue the practice. The Chairman, however, has not been long in reaping the fruit of his own indiscreet order.

To prevent the insolvency of the Municipality, Mr. Greer had to raise a temporary loan on his personal responsibility, as no loan could be raised on behalf of the Municipality either by the Chairman or the Commissioners without the sanction of Government. Mr. Greer asked the Bank of Bengal, the bankers of the Municipality, to accommodate him with four lakhs of rupees, but the Bank refused to advance such a large sum on Mr. Greer's sole responsibility. Mr. Greer then asked some of those European Commissioners, by whose advice he is always guided, to join him in signing the note-of-hand by which the money was to be raised, but they one and all refused to do so. In the last resource, Mr. Greer sought the help of the native Commissioners, and the money required was raised on the joint note-of-hand of Mr. Greer, Dr. Asutosh Mukharji and Mr. Rustomji, and the honour of the Municipality was saved.

At the special meeting which was called at the instance of some of the Commissioners, to consider the situation in which the Municipality found itself placed, the Chairman cast the whole blame on the Accountant and his clerks. But was not the Chairman himself, head of the municipal executive as he is, in any way responsible for such a big mistake, especially as it was the result of his own order directing the Vice-Chairman to sign cheques, in violation of the provisions of the law, without looking into the accounts? Are not the members of the General Committee, too, responsible for this blunder? The truth is that if the Chairman and the General Committee, the members of which are paid for their labours, had done their respective duties properly, a situation like this would never have come into existence. As for the Chairman, he was guilty of not only neglecting his own duty, but also of ordering the Vice Chairman not to do his. Yet, neither the Chairman nor the General Committee consider themselves to blame in the matter!

Though the Chairman has succeeded in establishing his innocence with the Commissioners by throwing the whole blame on the Account Department, should Government take no notice of the scandalous occurrence, the like of which never happened in the time of a native Accountant and of able and intelligent native Commissioners like Surendra, Narendra, Nalin, Bhupendra, Kali Nath and Radha Charan? The Chairman and the stipendiary members of the General Committee went to sleep too heavily over their duties to notice the transference of the money of one fund to another. The good old days, when Mr. Metcalfe, a former Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, had to resign for bringing it on the verge of insolvency once before, are gone, and now the rate-payers have no right to call for an explanation from the Chairman. Under the new law, the Chairman is the sole lord of the Municipality with European Commissioners as his supporters. No one has any authority now to call in question any act of his.

During the few years that Mr. Greer has been at the helm of the Municipality, he has given sufficient proof of his inability to direct its affairs. He has so increased expenditure that it has now become impossible for the Municipality to make the two ends meet. The truth is that matters will not improve so long as Mr. Greer is not removed from his post. The rate-payers must soon expect an increase to their burdens unless an experienced man is appointed as Chairman, and expenditure is curtailed, and all waste and misuse of municipal money stopped.

It is now more than three years since the new municipal law was introduced. In the light of the experience gained during this period, let the Government honestly say if the municipal administration of Calcutta was not better under the old régime than it is under the new; whether the conservancy of the town was not more carefully looked after under native Commissioners than it is now under the ascendancy of European Commissioners. We expect an honest answer from Lord Curzon. Let His Excellency also say, after a careful review of the working of the present Municipality, if a change in the law has not become necessary.

36. Referring to the city improvement scheme and the refusal of the Government of Bengal to lay a tax either on jute or railway passengers on the alleged ground that such taxation would only affect the poor, and to its

The proposed tax on kerosene oil.

HITAVADI,
May 1st, 1903.

advice as to the wisdom of taxing kerosene oil, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st May asks if a tax on kerosene oil would not also be a tax on the poor, who are its main consumers. As a matter of fact, it is the fear of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce which prevents the Government from proposing a tax on jute while it is ready to tax kerosene oil.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 2nd, 1903.

37. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 2nd May says that the work done by the Plague Department of the Calcutta Municipality is very unsatisfactory. When the people are in no way benefited by that department, it is useless to keep it at the sacrifice of such a large sum as Rs. 20,000.

The working of the Plague Department.

BANGAVASI,
May 2nd, 1903.

38. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd May has the following:—

The Special Plague Department under the Calcutta Municipality.

At the time of submitting the last Municipal budget Mr. Greer announced that the Special Plague Department would be abolished as soon as the present plague season was over. The public at large were not the least sorry or uneasy at this announcement, for during the last five years that the department has been in existence it has been able to discover no plague-preventive that we know of. Mr. Greer, too, evidently did not apprehend any mischief from the abolition of the department or he would not have proposed its abolition.

But the *Englishman* sounded a note of alarm, saying that the plague would increase if the department were abolished, although nobody can see what harm the abolition would do if the ordinary Health Department performed the work of disinfection just as the Special Department does at present. Shortly after this, the Secretary to the Calcutta Trades Association wrote a letter to Mr. Greer stating that in view of the gradual increase of plague in Calcutta it would not be safe or advisable to abolish the department, and the very day that Mr. Greer received this letter he sent a reply to the effect that the department would not be abolished this year, and that in view of the present prevalence of plague in the town it was not expedient to make any alteration in the existing system.

The Chairman's reply has taken us aback. When he announced the approaching abolition of the Special Plague Department, plague was spreading fast in the town and he must have clearly seen that its ravages would be great this year. How was it then that he suddenly gave up this resolve on receipt of the letter from the Secretary to the Trades Association? There is no argument of any great weight in the Secretary's letter. All that it says is that the department must have acquired great experience during the five years that it has been in existence. The department must have acquired experience, but that experience has borne no visible fruit that we are aware of. It appears from the papers of the Plague Department that plague appears in the town about the same time that it did five years ago, that the plague season is now of longer duration, and that the disease is fatal in a larger number of cases. We have therefore come to regard plague as a Providential visitation.

The letter of the Secretary to the Trades Association refers to the loud complaints of filthy streets and uncovered drains which are received from the northern quarter—the very quarter, that is, which is most overcrowded and where plague is most prevalent. Why should it be so in spite of the existence of the Health Department and the Special Plague Department? Dust, it is said, contain plague-germs. Why are then no steps taken either by the General or the Special Department to prevent the dust from the streets besprinkling the articles of food in the shops of grocers and confectioners?

DACCA PRAKAS,
May 3rd, 1903.

39. A correspondent, writing to the *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 3rd May, says:—It is impossible to give strangers

Water scarcity at Srinagar in the Dacca district.

a clear idea of the sufferings of the people of Srinagar, the central village of Vikrampur in the Dacca district, owing to scarcity of pure drinking-water. At the present time, all the tanks, *khals* and *beels* are absolutely without water. Those, who are a little well-off, manage to get water from the river; but the women of the poorer middle-class families have to run for the purpose to places where holes are dug in the bed of tanks. Low-class women have to travel great distances for water. The zamindar of the village is indifferent to the sufferings of the inhabitants.

Cannot something be done by the District Board? This fearful scarcity of water occurs every year; yet nobody thinks of finding a remedy.

40. Referring to the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May writes as follows:—

The Calcutta Improvement Scheme.

Who does not wish to see Calcutta turned into a very healthy and picturesque town? And who will grudge the money required to accomplish the object? But it should be seen that no invidious distinction is made between natives and whitemen—between the native quarter and the European quarter,—and that the money does not go to fill the pockets of avaricious men. Fear for life compels people to expend more than their circumstances permit. But who will willingly part with their money to see it wasted? And if they see that with their money the European quarter has been turned into a paradise, whilst only a few streets have been opened out in the quarter in which they, the natives, live, is it possible for them to sympathise with the work? Are they not men of flesh and blood? How long can they suffer oppression like mutes? If it is desired to improve Calcutta, why not tax coal, cigarettes or tobacco? You are opposed to taxing food-stuffs, because such taxation would be oppressive to the poor. But what will a tax on kerosene-oil mean? Will it not also oppress the poor? Government's policy in this matter is quite incomprehensible.

PRITAVASI.
May 4th, 1903.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

41. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 29th April writes as follows:—

The condition of the rivers in Bengal.

Full well does the Government know what is needed to promote the health and material prosperity of the country, but we regret that it thinks its duty done when it has only enumerated the necessary reforms. The necessity of improving navigation is frequently admitted in official papers, but at the same time Government shows a singular reluctance to incur the expenditure required for the purpose. Rivers, as everyone knows, were at one time the main trade routes in Bengal. The prosperity, which at one time belonged, and to some extent still belongs, to riparian tracts in the country, will bear testimony to this. But the condition of these rivers, not excepting that of even the Padma and the Bhagirathi, has greatly deteriorated, and with this deterioration has come the decline of many wealthy and prosperous cities in Bengal—like Satgaon on the Saraswati, Murshidabad on the Bhagirathi, Malda on the Mahananda, &c. Riparian localities are centres of trade in Bengal, and from these centres trade is carried to places in the interior of this country. Government thinks that the construction of railroads has greatly facilitated trade and commerce. But, in our opinion, railway-borne commerce will not prove so much lucrative to the native merchants as commerce borne by rivers, so long as these railroads do not come under the control and management of the children of the soil. As matters stand at present, railways and steamers bring the money, which at one time went to native *manjis*, into the pockets of foreign capitalists, depriving the *manjis* of their hereditary means of livelihood.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 29th, 1903.

Everywhere in this world riparian places are more prosperous than those which are not situated on rivers. This is proved by the remains of the once prosperous cities which were built on the Bhagirathi and the Saraswati by the Greeks, the Romans, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, &c., of old, by the prosperity of the cities which are situated on the Nile, and of the riparian settlements in America, and by the wealth of Eastern China which is traversed by many a river and canal.

The gradual silting up of the rivers in Bengal has dealt a severe blow to its internal trade, has done great harm to agriculture, has given birth to malaria, and has produced water scarcity. We now earnestly pray the Bengal Government to direct its attention seriously to this subject.

42. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 30th April says that on the 26th March

A railway complaint.

last a respectable pilgrim, named Vishnuprasad Chakravarti, came to Sitakunda from Kulaura station in Sylhet. He refused to pay the signaller of the former station, Krishna Chandra Acharyya, illegal gratification, upon which the latter reported

JYOTI,
April 30th, 1903.

to the station-master that Vishnu Babu had travelled in the intermediate class. Upon this an extra fare of Rs. 11-6 was exacted from him, and a receipt in proper form was granted to him for this excess payment.

Vishnu Babu sent the receipt to the Traffic Manager and prayed for orders. A refund was ordered, and on the 31st March last Vishnu Babu called at the Chief Auditor's office for payment. But he could not receive payment that day, nor on the following day. On the 2nd April, when he went again to the Sitakunda station to purchase a ticket for Chittagong, the station-master refused him a ticket on some pretext. Vishnu Babu had thus no choice but to determine upon travelling without a ticket. He was about to enter a train which was on the point of leaving, when the station-master ordered his men to catch him. Vishnu Babu was then caught and beaten. He was then taken within the station, treated to abuse and blows, and detained. It was only at 2 P.M. that he was released on the security of Bharatchandra Adhikari and after the double fare of Laksam to Sitakunda had been exacted. On the 9th April Vishnu Babu instituted a criminal case against the station-master. The Sitakunda police was directed to make an investigation in the case, but no investigation having been made by that police, Vishnu Babu has made a representation to the Deputy Magistrate, Babu Lalit Kumar Das.

HITAVADI,
May 1st, 1908.

43. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st May says that Doctor Pogose, the Medical Officer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway in Metiaburuj, Calcutta, greatly harasses poor railway servants by refusing to countersign medical certificates produced by them. His predecessor's conduct was quite different in this respect. The attention of the railway authorities is drawn to the matter.

HITAVADI.

44. The same paper publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1). In October 1901 one Rameswar Ghosh, a merchant of Kotchandpur in the Jessore district, booked two casks of oil from Calcutta to Kotchandpur, under risk-note B. The casks were lost on the way, but relying on the risk-note, the Railway Company refused to pay him any compensation. The Subdivisional Court of Jhenida and the District Judge of Jessore have also decided the case in the Railway Company's favour. If the High Court also should arrive at the same decision, it would be quite unsafe for merchants to send goods by rail. If the oil had been lost owing to leakage or otherwise, the Railway Company could not be found fault with; but when the casks themselves disappeared, how can it be said that the Company is not responsible for their disappearance?

(2) Jogesh Chandra Misra writes from the Barhanagar cutcherry of the Maharaja of Nator that on the 5th April last at the Bogra station, on the Eastern Bengal State Railway, two up-country coolies tried to enter into the female compartment in which certain female members of his family were travelling. The two police constables who were there at that time had received a bribe from the two men and, therefore, did not mind obstructing them, although asked to do so. The Station Babus were then called, but to no effect. At last the two coolies were removed from the female compartment with the help of the guard of the train. No watermen (*panipande*) could be found in the stations between Santahar Junction and Parbatipur Junction, although the thirsty passengers were constantly calling out loudly for water. At Parbatipur this correspondent was obliged to pay annas 8 to coolies for carrying three steel-trunks from the platform to the rest-room.

Great was the suffering of the ladies who had to remain standing and waiting on the platform for 20 minutes owing to the villainy and waywardness of the coolies. The rest-room for native women in the station is very badly lighted, the only broken old-fashioned lamp not lighting up even a fourth part of the room. The lighting arrangement in the latrine for men is also very bad. While the third class waiting-room cannot hold more than 100 men, no less than 400 to 500 passengers every day gather in the station. The result is that the great majority of them have to suffer the inclemency of the weather in open places. At least a corrugated-iron shed should be erected for their benefit in view of the approaching rains. The passage which leads to the platform from outside is very narrow and is thrown open only a very short time before the starting of a train.

A great rush follows in which men, women and children suffer seriously. At 10 P.M. on the 5th April last two native constables and a Eurasian were violently using their canes on the persons of intending passengers who were rushing through the passage for the Katihar mixed train. One man let fall a bottle which wounded 30 or 40 men. Many other accidents of a similar nature happened. Nearly 400 people were still outside the platform when the passage in question was closed, because the train had no room to carry them. The same thing happened when the Katihar mail train arrived at the station at 3-30 A.M. A ticket-collector whose name is Upen Babu, when told of the hardship of the passengers, answered in a most ungentlemanly manner. A few minutes before the starting of the train a man, apparently a *saheb's khansama*, entered into a third-class compartment, drove out the passengers who were in it and occupied it with his baggage. The poor passengers who were driven out were afterwards put by a police constable into another compartment which was already overcrowded. The station-master never comes out at train times. It is absolutely necessary that the number of carriages in passenger trains should be increased.

3. Babu Sasi Bhusan Mitra writes from Amta that on the 22nd April last a woman died of heat-apoplexy in No. 11 up train on the Howrah-Amta Railway at Domjurh. Her illness was caused by the overcrowding of the compartment which she occupied. A fellow-passenger told the manager of the line, who was travelling in the train, of the occurrence, but the latter answered him in an indifferent and heartless manner. Who is responsible for this loss of life?

45. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 4th May says that in this hot season passengers on the Eastern Bengal State Railway suffer greatly for want of drinking water, water-men being seldom met with in stations.

PRATIVASI,
May 4th, 1903.

(h)—General.

46. Referring to the circular issued by Mr. Fuller, Chief Commissioner of Assam, on the subject of the unlawful detention of time-expired coolies in Assam tea-gardens, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 30th April observes as follows:—

SANJIVANI.
April 30th, 1903.

It was a sense of justice which compelled Mr. Fuller, after all the honour shown him by tea-planters on his accession to the Chief Commissionership, to speak of the *zulm* which tea-planters practice on their coolies. Under the existing law coolies enter into labour contracts for four years at a time. But there are tea-planters who do not discharge them after they have served their full term and detain them on the plea that they were absent from duty or failed to do full work on certain days during the period of their engagement, and that they must make up their default before getting their discharge.

By this trick many coolies are detained in the gardens beyond the term of their engagement. Mr. Fuller came to know this, but not wishing to incur the displeasure of the tea-planters, he has ordered that if no charge of assault or other specific criminal offence is brought against a tea-garden manager, no charge will be framed against him, but on receipt of a cooly's application for discharge, the Magistrate will simply write to the manager informing him of the fact and intimating to him that if no reply is received from the manager before a certain date, to be fixed in the letter, the cooly's application will be granted. Mr. Fuller has thus saved tea-garden managers from the penalty provided in the law for unlawful detention of their coolies. The Chief Commissioner has not done right to shew this favour to tea-planters. The latter will not, it is certain, discharge any cooly before receiving an order of discharge from a Magistrate, and coolies will have, in most cases, to apply to a Magistrate for their discharge.

47. The same paper has the following:—

SANJIVANI.

A short-hand and type-writer was advertised for for employment in the Customs House, Calcutta. Twenty-five native and 10 European and Eurasian candidates applied for the post. The officer with whom the selection of the fittest

Europeans and Eurasians and the public service.

man for the post rested wrote to the officer who was to make the appointment that though there are some "competent Babus" among the applicants, the post, in his opinion, should be given to a European or Eurasian, as the candidate appointed would have, from time to time, to do confidential work. It is difficult to see, why the native, who has all along faithfully and creditably served the Government in many confidential departments, has suddenly incurred the distrust of the authorities. The reason why confidential work, confidential circulars and secret counsel are so often heard of now-a-days is that Government has become extremely anxious to employ Europeans and Eurasians more largely in the public service.

JYOTI,
April 30th, 1903.

48. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 30th April writes:—

The contemplated transfer of Chittagong to the jurisdiction of Assam.

With reference to the address presented by the Chittagong District Board to Mr. Bourdillon, the *Englishman* newspaper remarks that when Chittagong was first proposed to be included within Assam a loud outcry was made, but the people have now come to see that it would be better for Chittagong to be included within that province.

Mr. Digby has said that India can be viewed in two aspects, namely, as India for Englishmen and India for Indians. In the same manner Chittagong can be viewed in two aspects, namely, Chittagong for Englishmen and Chittagong for Indians. It is only about the Chittagong for Englishmen that Mr. Bourdillon, the *Englishman* newspaper and those who presented the address on behalf of the Chittagong District Board are thinking and speaking. They do not appear to have taken the views of the people of Chittagong into their consideration. Mr. Bourdillon has said that the main object of his visit to Chittagong was to ascertain personally the views and feelings of the community. But he did not inform the people of this beforehand and, while in Chittagong, he mixed only with the European community. He did not call upon the leading men of Chittagong to express their views upon the subject. Babu Kamala Kanta Sen, the head of the local native community, was not permitted to see the Lieutenant-Governor. Are we not justified in concluding after this that it was only to ascertain the views of the English community that Mr. Bourdillon came to Chittagong, and that he has learnt those views and gone away.

He did not probably feel it necessary to learn our views. We may be 50 lakhs in number, but we, for all that, depend completely upon the mercy of him and his countrymen. They will show their mercy when it suits their purpose to do so. It is not in our power to compel them to do anything. But even when Englishmen are no more than 50 in number, it is not easy to disregard their interests or their feelings. We are not therefore surprised at Mr. Bourdillon ascertaining the views of Englishmen alone. The *Englishman* plainly declares that the transfer of Chittagong to the jurisdiction of Assam is as good as settled, and the Lieutenant-Governor's reply, though very adroitly worded, plainly hints at such a thing. But where is the need of so much policy? Let it be plainly declared that Chittagong will be included in Assam in the interest of the English merchants and planters, and no objection will any longer be heard.

HITAVADI,
May 1st, 1903.

49. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st May says that the freaks and

The Collector of Customs, Calcutta.

oppressions of Mr. Morshead, the Collector of Customs, have turned the Customs Office in Calcutta into a bed of thorns for its native clerks. In his excessive fondness for Eurasians Mr. Morshead gives them promotions in supersession of the superior claims of natives, nay, when there is no Eurasian in the office to be promoted, he brings one from outside and places him over the natives. Within the last few months Mr. Morshead has either suspended or degraded no less than 11 native employes. The working hours in the Customs Office are from 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M., but Mr. Morshead has written to the Government for its sanction to work the office either from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. or from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M.

HITAVADI

50. The official papers, says the same paper, of which use has been made

Native signallers in the Telegraph Department.

by the native signallers in the Telegraph Department in their petition to the Viceroy show that, in the opinion of the authorities, not only Bengalis

but all natives are unfit for admission to the general scale, because they are cowardly, weak and worthless. But every official is fully aware and believes that the blackman is abler than the whiteman or the Eurasian. Whether in the Ghona deluge and landslip in the Delhi Darbar or in the Muski troubles in Beluchistan, it was the Indians who showed the greatest courage and ability. But when the time came for the distribution of rewards, it was only sweet words that fell to the lot of the Indians, whilst Europeans and Eurasians received all honours and remunerations. Does any one ever think of the harm that is being done by the observance of this caste distinction?

51. The same paper writes as follows:—

The Indian Army.

In his last budget speech the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale said, "The British troops in this country are under the short-service system, but owing to the peculiarity of the situation, the main advantage of the short service, viz., securing for the country a large body of trained reservists—goes to England, while all the disadvantages of the system—the paucity of seasoned soldiers, increased payments to the British War Office for recruitment charges and increased transport charges—have to be borne by us." It is necessary for the good of the country, and justice, too, requires it that both the native army and the British troops in India should be organised on the short-service system. "If short service was introduced," observed His Highness the Agha Khan, "and a system not only of regimental reserves but a permanent territorial reserve was formed, it could be brought about that though the peace establishment of the Indian army and its cost would be less than at present, yet its effective strength in time of war would be greater." The short-service system, if introduced in the native army, would give the Indians an opportunity of learning the art of fighting, and obviate the necessity on the part of the Government of maintaining even in time of peace a large standing army at a prodigious cost. In fact, a system of territorial reserve would enable the Government to muster a large force in times of war, while the army expenditure in times of peace would be one-fourth of what it is at present. "Japan, for instance," says Mr. Gokhale, "which spends on her army in times of peace about one-fourth of what we spend, has a peace establishment half our own, and can mobilise in times of war double the number of men that India can."

HITAVADI,
May 1st, 1903.

III.—LEGISLATION.

52. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 2nd May says that Mr. Cotton late Chief Commissioner of Assam, was insulted by the tea-planters of that province, because he tried to put a stop to the ill-treatment to which the poor coolies were subjected by them. In consequence of this act of Mr. Cotton's, Lord Curzon strongly remonstrated with him, and at last refused to give him the post of Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. We see that Mr. Fuller, the present Chief Commissioner of Assam, is treading in the footsteps of his predecessor. There is no difference between the slavery of Africa and that of the Assam coolies. In spite of that the Government does not feel ashamed of its cooly law.

BHARAT MITRA,
May 2nd, 1903.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

53. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April has the following in its English columns:—
English education of Indian Princes. It has become well nigh a craze among Indian Princes both of high and low degree to send their sons to England for education as soon as they are of an age to discard the long clothes of infancy. That being the most impressionable period of their lives they, of course, become thoroughly imbued with the influences amidst which they are placed, acquire a thoroughly western side to their character, learn to "put on English" as the phrase goes, and become so thoroughly anglicised in both their outward and inward aspect that it is difficult to tell them from their English school-mates. By the time they return home after the "grand

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
April 30th, 1903.

tour" they are no longer the men that they were when they set out, and are too "English" in their likes and dislikes, their feelings and convictions to feel any sympathy for or have any part or lot in the affairs of the people amidst whom their lines in life are fallen. They are like strangers in a strange land, and are entirely out of touch with their own flesh and blood and their own kith and kin. We do not say that our Princes should be made to stick on to their own homestead and hearth side for ever and a day, and denied the privilege of seeing the world which is considered by so many of us as a liberal education in itself. But there is such a thing as beginning it too early and then it is likely to do more harm than good. It is bad enough already as it is, and we need not make it worse. For the only effect exercised by English education—or rather education under the tutorship of Englishmen—upon our Princes—the stay-at-homes and the "go-abroads" alike—is to create in them an over-powering and all-consuming predilection for English sports—polo and such like—and a liking for the company of English grooms (whose sisters they sometimes take unto themselves for a wife), vagabonds, loafers and adventurers of sorts in preference to that of their own countrymen. Some of our Princes become so very addicted to the turf to which they are sometimes induced to take by the Military Secretaries of Viceroy's in partnership with whom they often run their horses at the races—that to indulge that vicious craving to the fullest extent, they gladly see the far end of a fair fortune, fall over head and ears in debt, and become in one word "stoney-broke" in the language of "fast" life. The studs or equine beauties which it is their boast to sport "eat their own heads off" as Shakespeare would say, and eat their owners out of house and home into the bargain. If such is the effect of only English Tutorship in this country, what will it be when we cut our Princes adrift from the influences of home and kindred in their early youth, and place them in the midst of English boys in the most impressionable period of their lives? Of true English manliness they are likely to learn precious little. But in English vices and follies they are sure to be steeped up to their lips. Removed as they are from the control of their not natural guardians and free to do pretty much as they please at a time of life when they can hardly be said to have reached the age of discretion, it is small wonder that they should succumb to the temptations by which their path is beset and become moral wrecks. Such of our Princes therefore, as are anxious to send their sons to England for education, would do well to have a care how they place their young hopefuls in the midst of the vices and follies of English swelldom without adequate provision for the closest and most careful supervision over their manners and morals. At the great public schools of England they, no doubt, run much less risk of moral contamination, but how many of them would care to submit to the strict discipline and the numerous healthy restraints which are exercised upon their pupils by the authorities of public schools in England? And even if they could be brought to join a public school, what guarantee is there that they would not become thoroughly denationalized from the influence of their surroundings and lose all touch with their kinsmen and people? Indeed what with the Scylla of moral ruin on one side and the Charybdis of denationalization on the other, they are sure to find it a well nigh impossible task to steer their course clear of all danger and put into a safe and secure haven. There can be no doubt that a liberal English education is bound to do them a world of good. But somehow it is more the shadow than the substance which they are fit alike by habit and nature to cultivate. They imbibe only the little draughts at the Pyrrhean spring of knowledge, which intoxicate the brain and never the copious ones which sober us again. Comparisons are always odious. But there is the Maharaja of Mysore who received a thorough English education under the tutorship of Englishmen who have helped to make the history of India and a more exemplary Prince one could never expect to pitch upon in his born days. And there was the Maharaja of Patiala who raised his English groom's sister to the throne and lost his whole fortune on the turf, and who at the time of his death was most heavily in debts. And there were the Indian Princes of the old School—Raja Ramsingh of Jeypore and the father of the present Scindia for instance—who never knew a word of English, but were yet statesmen in the true sense of the word, possessed of administrative capacity of no mean order, who were more than fathers to their subjects. In remembering

them well may the country which they have left so much poorer by their death, say in the words of the Poet :—

Break, break, break,
At the foot of thy crags, at sea,
Will never come back to me.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

54. The *Kasipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 29th April says that there have been some deaths from plague within the jurisdiction of Perozepur and a large number of deaths from small-pox in several villages within the jurisdiction of Jhalkati. Cholera is getting more and more virulent every day in Swarupkati and Kaukhali. Such fearful epidemics have not been heard of during the last 25 years. In small villages there are no medical men, and many people go without any treatment at all. The District Board ought to send medical aid to such places.
- Plague, small-pox and cholera in some villages in the Backergunge district.
- KASIPUR NIVASI.
April 29th, 1903.

URIYA PAPERS.

55. The *Utkal Dipika* [Cuttack] of the 25th April states that the weather is so hot that it is simply unbearable. The *Garjat-Basini* [Talcher] of the 25th April hopes that there will be a shower of rain at an early date. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 23rd April says that the cultivation of lands in that district is at a standstill, and unless it rains soon the cultivating classes will be very much depressed in spirit.
- The weather.
- UTKALDIPIKA,
April 25th, 1903.
56. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 23rd April refers to the prevalence of fever, measles and cow-pox in that district. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 25th April states that cholera prevails in the Angul State, and that cattle-pox has proved another source of danger.
- Fever, cholera, etc., in Balasore and Angul.
- SAMVAD VAHIKA
April 23rd, 1903.
57. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 25th April says that the late earthquake has damaged the foundations of the Victoria Hall, and that the phenomenon of a falling meteor has intensified the feeling of apprehension caused in the public mind by the earthquake.
- The late earthquake.
- GARJATBASINI,
April 25th, 1903.
58. The same paper rejoices to announce that a big bear was killed by the Raja of Talcher in the Srirampur forest of that district.
- A bear killed by the Raja of Talcher.
- GARJATBASINI.
59. The same paper sympathises with the object and proceedings of the Ganjam National Association which proposes to give a new life to the Uriyas by bringing them all under one Provincial Administration and by encouraging Uriya authors in various ways.
- The Ganjam National Association.
- GARJATBASINI.
60. The same paper approves of the measures, adopted by the Angul authorities, to keep the *Pans* residing in that State, who are known to be members of a criminal tribe, under police surveillance.
- Police surveillance for the *Pans* in Angul.
- GARJATBASINI.
61. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 23rd April supports Government in its attitude towards the Hindus and Buddhists interested in the Buddha-Gaya dispute, and hopes that both the contending parties will acquiesce in the settlement proposed by the Government.
- Government in the Buddha-Gaya dispute.
- SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 23rd, 1903.
62. The *Utkal Dipika* [Cuttack] of the 25th April notices with pleasure the friendly relations between England and France, as evidenced by a visit of the English monarch to the latter country, and hopes that some good will come out of the event.
- The Emperor's visit to France.
- UTKALDIPIKA,
April 25th, 1903.
63. The same paper recommends the abolition of the chaukidari-tax at an early date, as it has proved to be one of the most cruel taxes ever levied in the country. It is argued that the majority of the people upon whom this tax is imposed are landholders, and as they already pay the land-tax and cesses on account of
- The chaukidari-tax.
- UTKALDIPIKA.

their lands, it is inequitable to levy another tax upon them. As regards those that do not hold land, it may be said that they are mostly day-labourers, and as such deserve exemption from the tax.

UTKALDIPKA,
April 25th, 1903.

64. The same paper gives an account of the proceedings of the Orissa Association in connection with the proposed amalgamation of the Uriya-speaking districts under one Provincial administration and supports its resolutions, sympathising with the prayer made by the inhabitants of Ganjam to the India Government to bring all such districts under one Provincial Government, either by annexing them to Bengal proper or by constituting them into an independent administration under a Chief Commissioner. The writer thinks that the transfer of Ganjam and Sambalpur to Bengal is the better of the two proposals, and if that is found impracticable the Uriya-speaking districts may be constituted into one administration under a Chief Commissioner, with this proviso that the existing relations of the Orissa schools with the Calcutta University and of the Orissa Courts with the Calcutta High Court of Judicature should not be altered in any way.

65. In an article headed "The distress of the Uriyas," the same paper compares the grievances of the Uriyas of the Ganjam district with those of the Uriyas of Orissa proper, and observes that while in Ganjam foreigners, such as Telegus, have monopolised almost all desirable posts under the British Government and under Native States and zamindaris, in Orissa proper foreigners, such as Bengalis, etc., have not only monopolised almost all desirable posts under the British Government and Native States and zamindaris, but have purchased more than half the land in Orissa. The writer gives a short history of the sale of Orissa zamindaris and points out how big mahals were knocked down to the highest bidder by the Board of Revenue in Calcutta without the knowledge of the old Uriya landowners, who had no means to go up to Calcutta to save their property. The writer further points out that out of 18 lakhs, being the assessed profits of estates in the Province, $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs go to foreigners and about three lakhs to Government as proprietor of khas mahal lands, leaving only $7\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in the hands of the natives of Orissa. This is the fiscal commentary on the amalgamation of Orissa with Bengal, and this is the secret of foreign influence in Orissa.

UTKALDIPKA.

66. The same paper regrets to point out that the chaukidars do not patrol at night the villages situated beyond the limits of municipalities, and that this has been the consequence of the new system which has converted the servants of the villagers into the paid servants of Government, thus leading to the formation of a lower constabulary under the police. This is not at all desirable.

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Offg. Bengali Translator.

The 9th May, 1903.